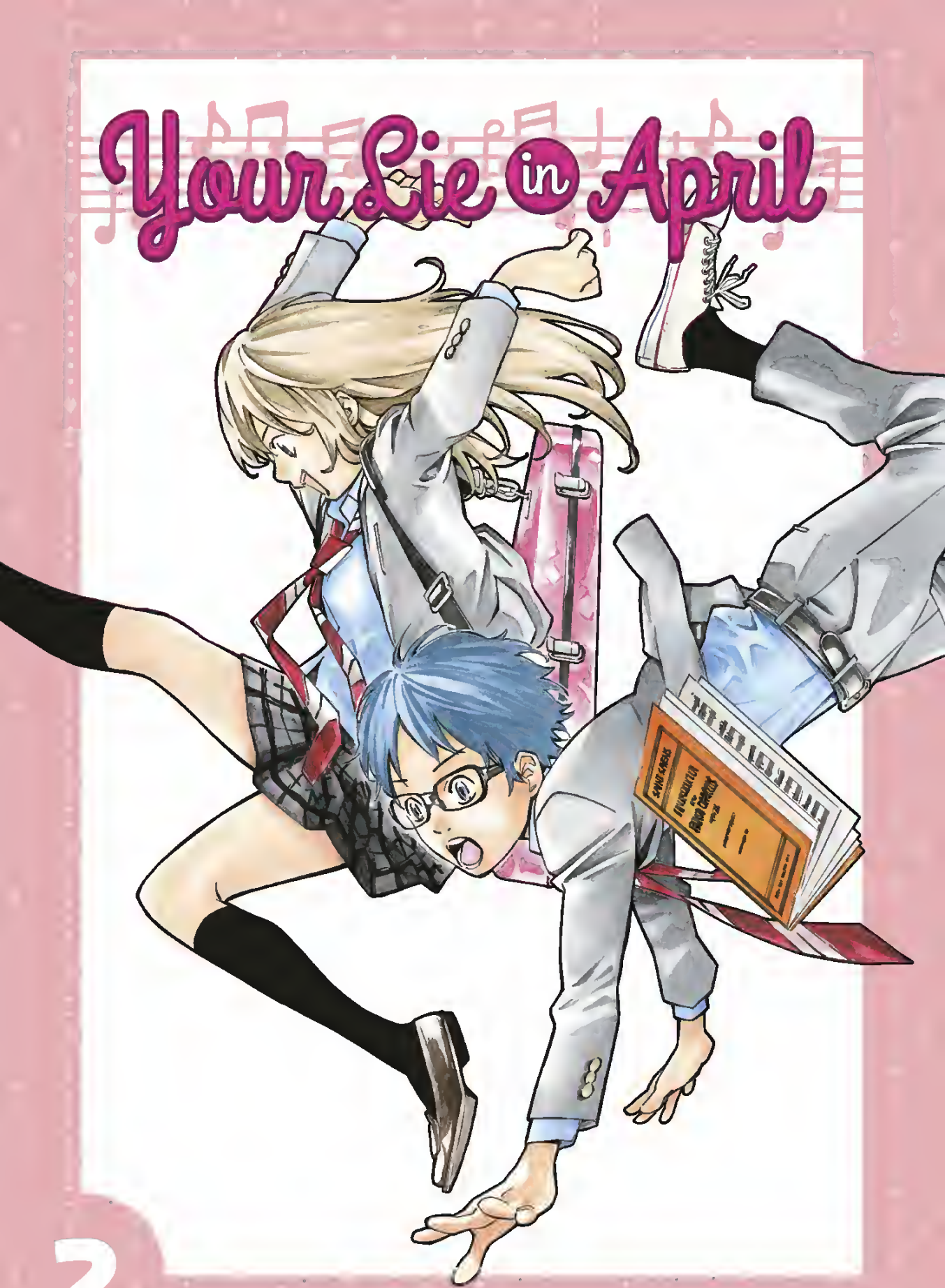
Your Lie in April



2

NAOSHI ARAKAWA

四月は君の嘘

I met the girl under full-bloomed cherry blossoms, and my fate has begun to change.

2

Naoshi Arakawa

cover design: Kenji Ashitsu
http://ko.kodansha.co.jp/cs/contact

2

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新川直司

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四月は君の嘘

Monthly
Shonen
Magazine
Comics

2

Naoshi Arakawa

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『四月は君の嘘』1巻―

『さよならフットボール』全2巻

『冷たい校舎の時は止まる』全4巻

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四月は君の嘘

Yaoshi Arakawa

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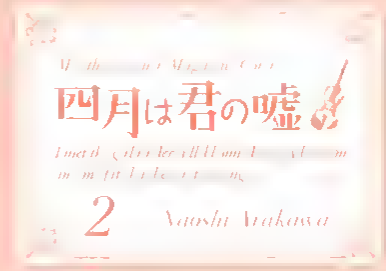

四月は君の嘘

I met the girl
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and my fate has begun to change.

2

新川直司
Naoshi Arakawa

Story & Characters

Miyazono Kaori

She is a violinist overwhelming Kousei. She passed to the second preliminary contest as the audience recommendation, and asked Kousei to accompany her there.

Watari Ryouta

Captain of the soccer club. Childhood Friends with Kousei and Tsubaki. Popular among girls, and he loves girls himself. He's said to be frivolous, but from time to time he says some good things.

In the autumn of his 11th year, the former genius pianist - Arima Kousei, in the wake of his mother's death, became unable to play the piano. He's moving on ordinarily without being noticed, living his life in monotone. But in the spring of his 14th year, he meets a girl. She's extremely violent, has a bad personality... and is a very talented violinist. Miyazono Kaori came and changed Kousei's grey world.

Arima Kousei

After his mother died when he was 11, he claimed that that he was unable to play piano. But after meeting Kaori-chan by chance, he was once again thrown into the world of music.

Tsubaki

The Slugger of the softball club. Kousei's childhood friend & next door neighbor, wants Kousei, for whom time has stopped, to move on, so she helps Kaori.

After passing the 1st preliminary contest as the "audience recommendation", Kaori appoints Kousei as her accompanist for her next theme song. Saint-Saëns' "Introduction and rondo Capriccioso". "When I concentrate on the performance, I'm unable to hear the piano's sound". Kousei confesses to carrying a fatal handicap. But facing her tears, he is moved to agree to be the accompanist for the contest performance.

Facing a return to the stage, will this ex-genius boy, together with this girl, be able to play any kind of "music"?!

contents

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Chapter 7 - Cloudy weather pattern 103

Chapter 8 - Water's surface 151

Listen Kousei.
Repeatedly read the music score,
and play it over and over again.
If you do that, you'll perfect it.
Just like it's written in the score, exactly as the composer intended it.
Accurately
You're off again, how many times must I tell you until you understand?
Until you're able to play this part, you won't go to sleep.
Stay focused.
Everything's written in the score.

Only 12 years old and already wearing glasses?
There are rumors that they're hiding a bruise.
Where does he play?
Such a life is normally unbearable.
Everyone's just says whatever they want.
I'm the only one at my mother's side.
Arima's at the top again?
Must be because his mother is in line with Hashimoto-sensei.
He gets 7-8 lessons every day.
He really seems like a machine.

SCREECH
SAFE!!
SFX all break

KOUSEI!!!
FALL
THUD
SMACK
ding
WE ARRIVED!
TOWA HALL
WE MADE IT!!
LET'S DO IT!
GUSH
GUSH

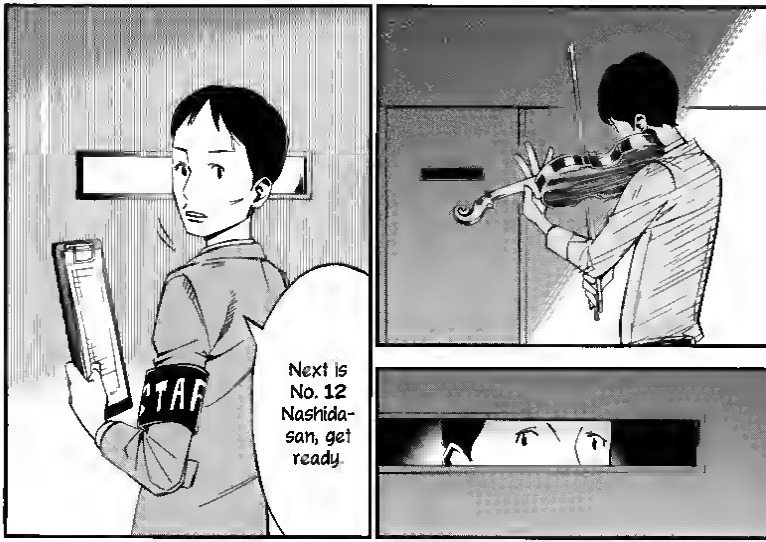
Thanks you two,
we're going.
drag
drag
SNEAKERS WON'T DO!
Kousei, those shoes..
HUH!?
Watari,
Tsubaki ..
tap
tap
Shoes
Change
THEY ARE STILL NEW.
USE MINE!!
HURRY!

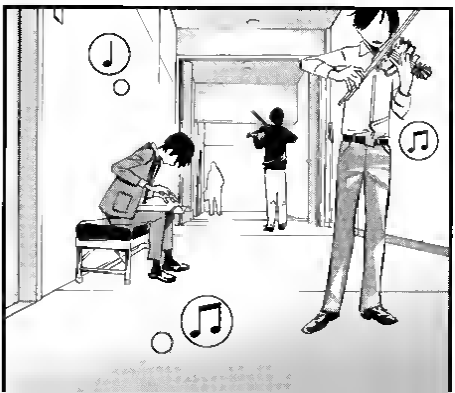
Thanks,
I'm going now.
Hurry up and go
...
Will he be able to do it properly, that Kousei?
He's so impatient.

Spring will come soon.
Huh?
And more skinny here..
It goes quickly at this part..
Step
Step
It'll be May really soon.
The cherry blossoms are almost petal-less.
Yup.
You are right...

...Spring will come soon.

6TH TOWA MUSIC CONTEST


Next is No. 12 Nashida-san, get ready



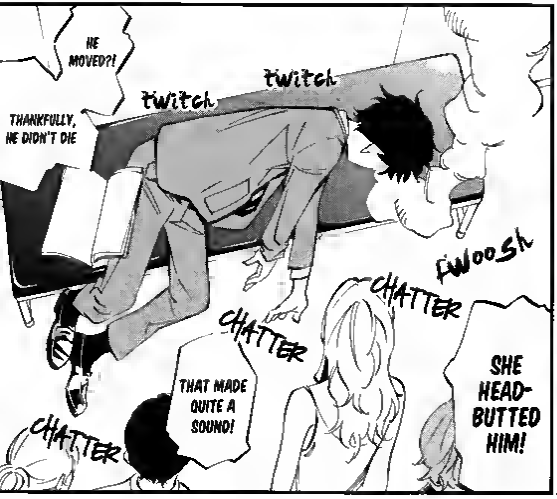
GOOO!! MAKE SURE YOU GET 1ST PLACE!
SHOCK
clang
Ah.. She put her under pressure...
YES!
Y...

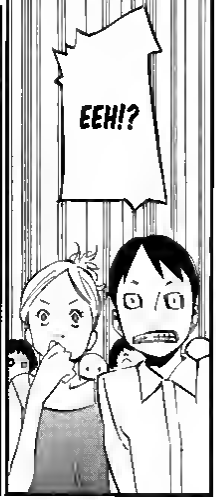
THIS IS...
CRAZY.
tap
tap
I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO PRACTICE ...
SO MY FINGERS CAN REMEMBER IT.
I NEED TO AT LEAST KNOW IT PERFECTLY ENOUGH TO NOT NEED THE SCORE.
AND...
AT ALMOST FIRST SIGHT...
WE NEED TO DO A JOINT TOGETHER

WITH SUCH AN UNREASON-ABLE VIOLINIST.
Prepa-rations are finished.

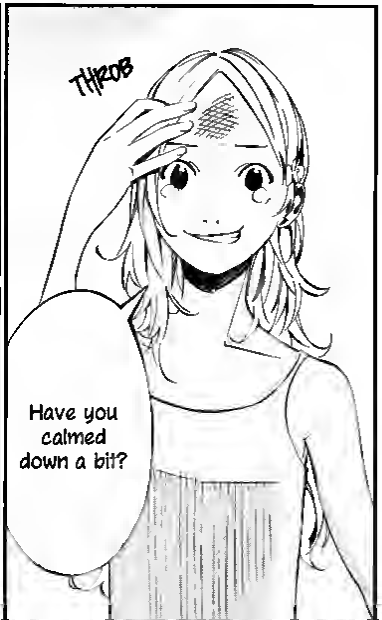
What will we do about the tempo? Start with a bang?
It's ab-surd,
It's reck-less.
To have a...
Decent musical perfor-mance in my condi-tion is not some-thing I can do.
tap
tap
tap
Does this dress suit me? It's brand new.
I should have refused right away
Since my wounds are still open
Thus will just be shame-ful
Ignoring me...?
IRRITATED
!?

SFX: bang


HE MOVED?!
twitch
twitch
THANKFULLY, HE DIDN'T DIE
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
fwoosh
THAT MADE QUITE A SOUND!
SHE HEAD-BUTTED HIM!


EEH!?

WHA-
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!


THROB
Have you calmed down a bit?

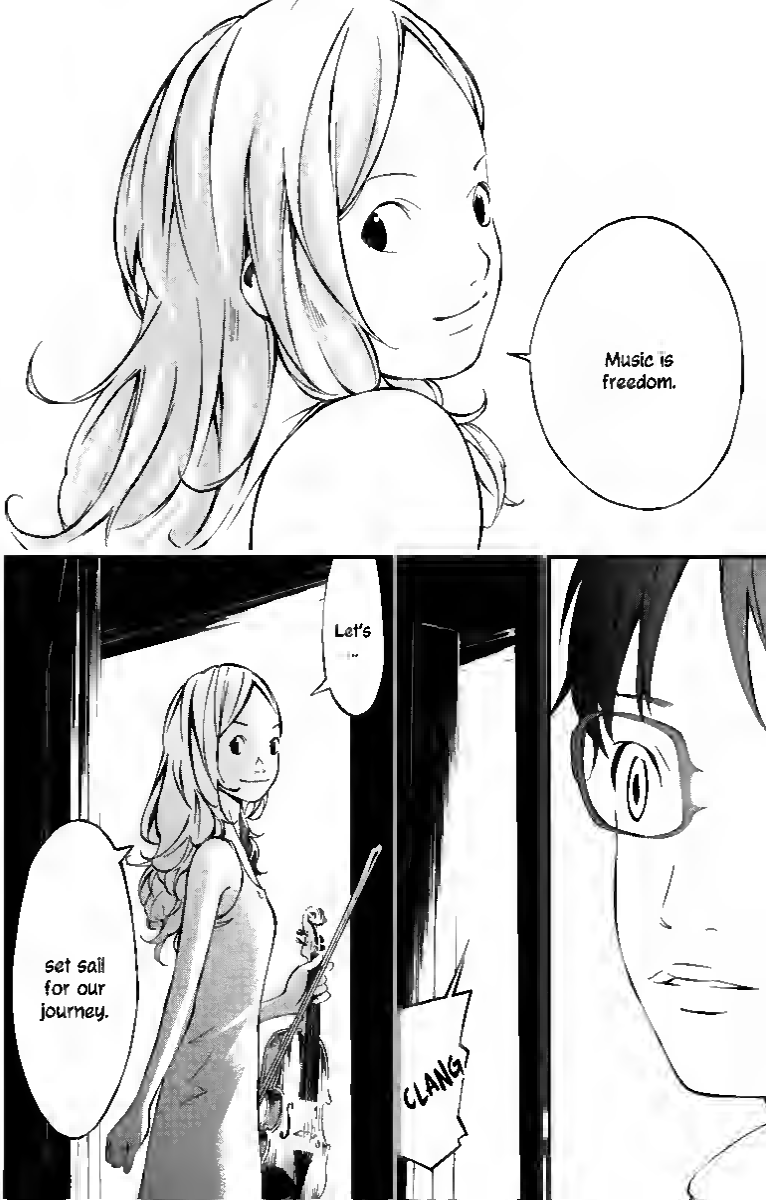
Raise your head and look at me
Because if you always keep your head down,
You'll be locked up inside the music score's cage.
Waah...
Look at me.

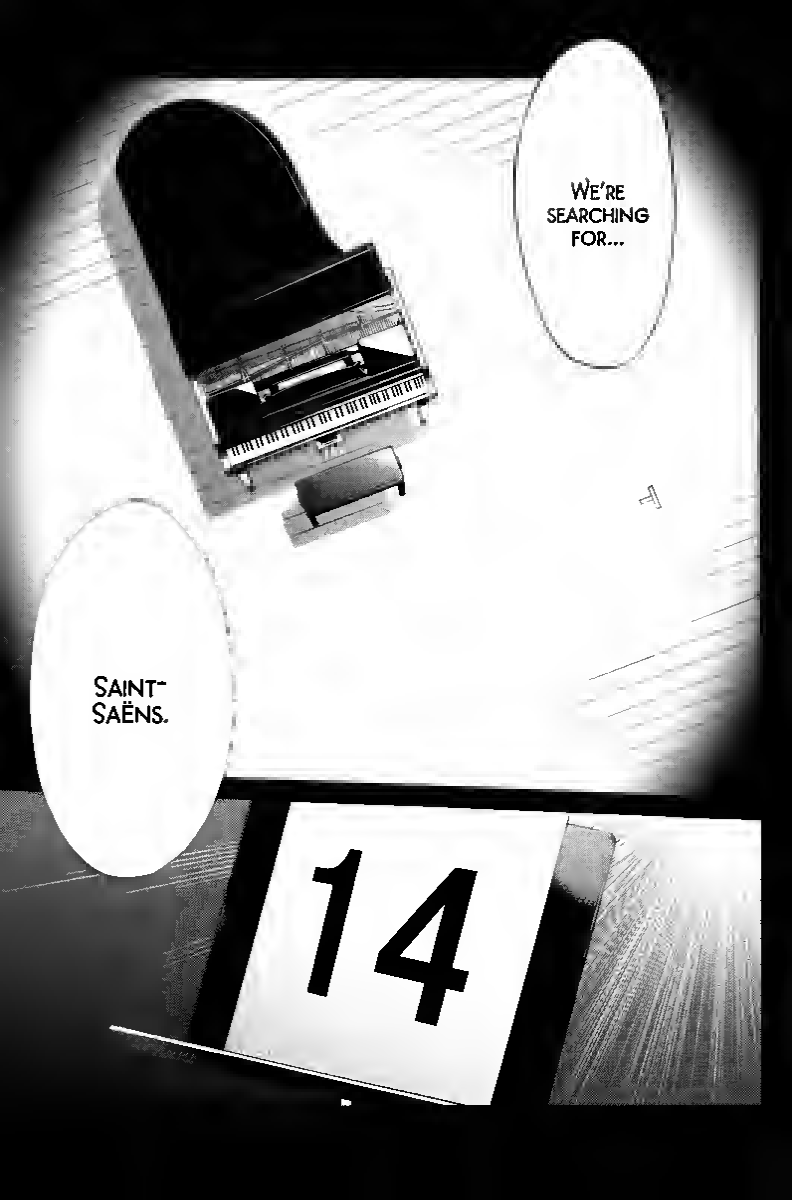
It's alright
If it's you, you can do it
You were always listening to it during lunch breaks
The music scores were always in front of your eyes
If it's us, we can do it

Let's start our journey
Mozart says so, from up in the sky,
Let's start it with all we have,
"let's set out on a journey."
both of us.
twitch
gulp
Please get ready
No.14 Miyazono Kaori-san

Let's go.
It's better if you unfasten your necktie
Every thing is written in the score.
Just as it's written in the score
Listen, Kousei.

Like a roller coaster.
Just swinging me around.
Bizar- re...
Naive ...
She herself,
doesn't know the desti- nation
of the jour- ney.
You are... freedom itself.
Nope.


Music is freedom.
Let's ...
set sail for our journey.
CLANG

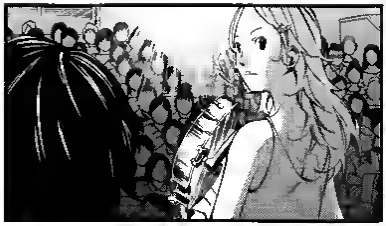

WE'RE SEARCHING FOR...
SAINT-SAËNS.
14

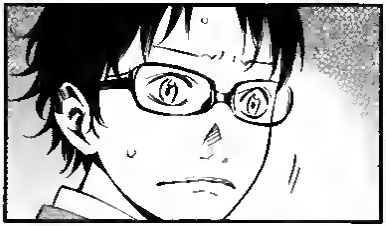
tap
tap
tap
THIS SILENCE... IS FOR US
tap
tap
tap
ALL THE PEOPLE THAT ARE GATHERED HERE...

ARE WAITING
FOR THE TWO OF US,
TO MAKE A SOUND.
ba thump
ba thump
ba thump
Huh?
Is that perhaps ...?
The accompanist is a kid as well
My Kaori-chan
Blush
THERE THEY ARE!!
STOP

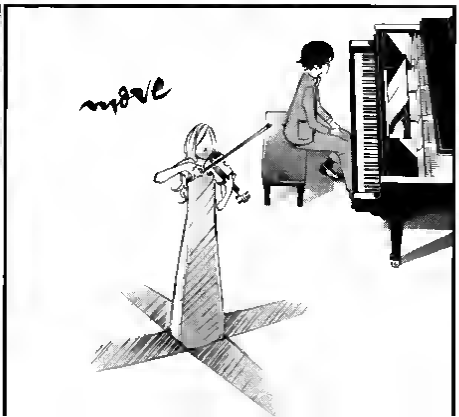
SFX: clang clang clang

He's grown, but that face is "Piano's Arima.'
That's right
!
SFX: chatter chatter
Arima-kun
It's Arima.
The pianist,
Geez
Phew, finally done.
ARE THOSE TWO ACQUAINTANCES?
RATHER, DOES HE EVEN KNOW HOW TO ACCOMPANY?
ARIMA KOUSEI.
What performance do you plan to give?
Hmph...
Meticulousness and spontaneity.
That's a pretty mismatched couple.
...





Your face is stiff.



A SONG WRITTEN FOR THE GENIUS VIOLINIST PABLO DE SARASATE

GOOD
This song is pleasant.
It started well,
and I can hear the sound.
THOUGH IT HAS A PASSAGE THAT FEELS A LITTLE LOOSE
THE VIOLIN IS EMPHASIZED
WHEN I MATCH THE SCORE.

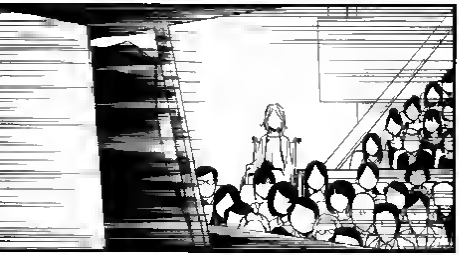
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pi36tnGKcM)

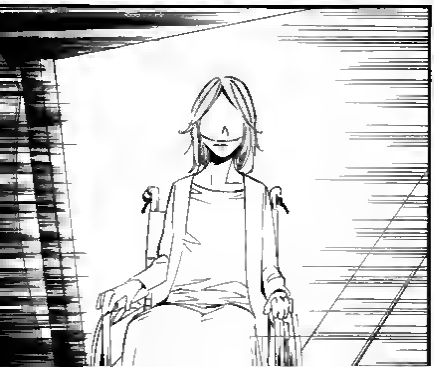
TECHNICALLY, IT'S NOT A DIFFICULT SONG.
Kousei's playing piano again.
Aah...

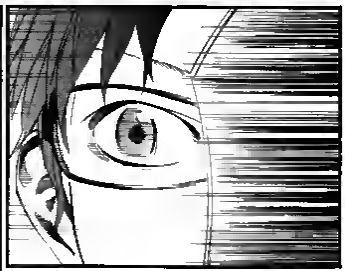
Miya-
zono
Kaori
She's bowing differently from last time, more quietly
DOES SHE PLAN TO USE ARIMA?
HIS ACCU-RATE PERCE-PTION IS...
PRETTY SOLID
yup
yup
Sparkling

HER TRUE CHARACTER'S COMING OUT.
HERE IT COMES!!
DON'T FALL BEHIND!!
PRECISELY,
MATCH THE VIOLIN!!
THE MELODY STANDS OUT.
THE PIANO'S SOUND HELD FIRM,
He effortlessly matched it.
IN THE SHORT WHILE THAT I WASN'T WATCHING,
YOU BECAME AN ACCOMPANIST?!

It's like my fingers..
Are sticking to the keys.
Ugh...
Amazing...
.....







Vanish
The notes are...

...disappearing.

Hm?
What happe-ned?
The sound faded
Huh?
Murmur?
The accom panist
Murmur

...In disarray.

Kou-sei.
WITH-OUT MISSING A NOTE.
THE ASTONI-SHINGLY PRECISE ACCOMPA-NIST IS...

Sea of darkness / END

AT THE BOTTOM OF A DARK SEA,
I CAN'T HEAR A THING.
NO ONE'S THERE.
The accompanist is acting strangely
What happened, so suddenly?
KOUSEI...
DARK...
I'M...
AT THE BOTTOM OF A DARK SEA.
so punctually...
Though he was playing...

AT SUCH A TIME,
THE BEATING SOUND OF THE KEY-BOARD,
AS WELL AS THE VIOLIN'S SOUND,
I CAN HEAR ALL OF THAT.
It's a mess.
Lacks practice

I'm alone.

Chapter 6 -
The figure behind me

That accompanist is the worst,
though I liked the violin.
The sound keeps pouring out, but...
That accompanist... doesn't suit...
MIYAZONO KAORI
You're paying for your mistakes.
That's because you brought a kid as your accompanist.
it doesn't fit...
He lacks experience, but still... there was a balance.
What happened so suddenly, Arima?
I just...
can't hear the piano's sound.
Why?
Why?
DAMN.
DAMN.
I'M IN TOO DEEP.
WON'T THE PIANO BREAK?

The piano is damaging this performance.
AH!?

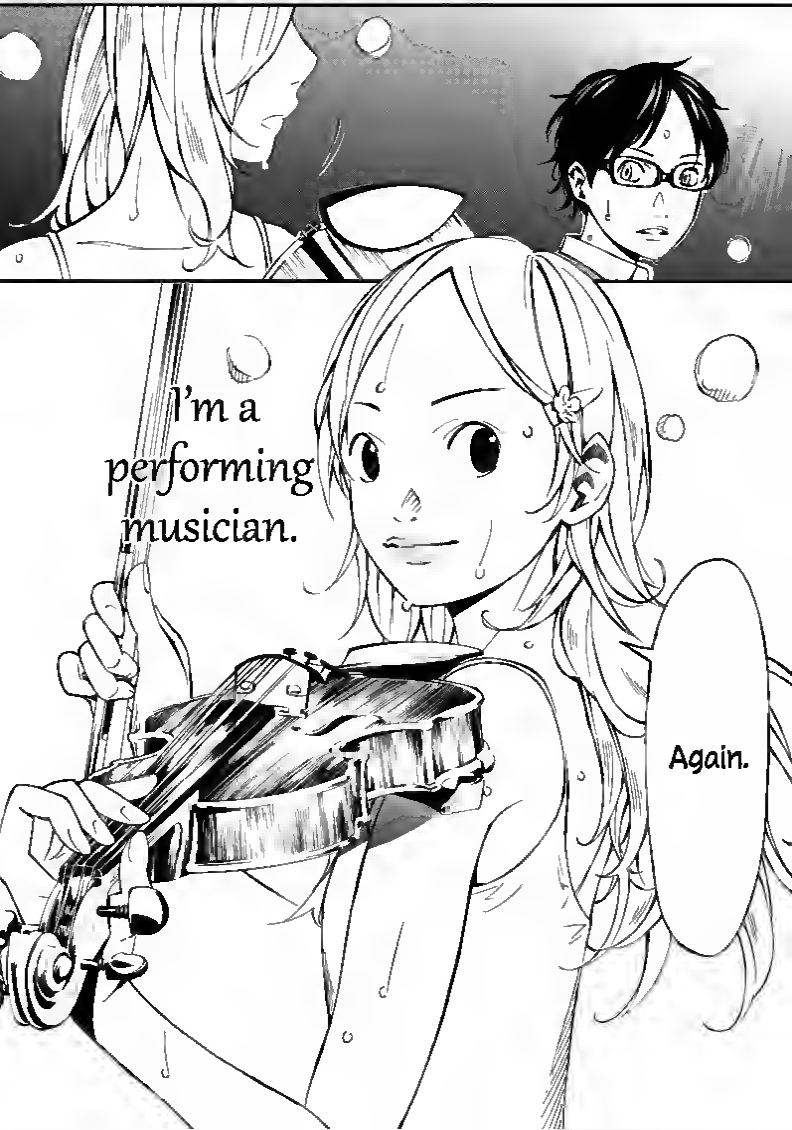
SORRY.
If this continues...
SORRY.
If I continue to play...
The piano accompanist...
stopped playing.

That might be for the best.
Though you won't avoid demerit,
If you continue to play like this...
IT WILL AFFECT THE VIOLINIST.
she will be hurt.
If you, as her support, are flawed...
The piano sucks.
Don't get in the way.
IF I PLAY
FOR YOU.
It would've been better if he didn't play from the start
I'LL BE A BOTHER TO YOU.
For you...

Are they disqualified?
They're not disqualified, but...
Slump
THIS IS UNHEARD OF!
This is the end.
They both stopped.
Even the violin...!
No way.

IT'S THE END OF THE CONTEST!
WHY DID YDU STDP!!?
IT WOULD BE COOL WITHOUT HIM!
DOH'T BRING AN ACCOM-PAHIST THAT SUCKS!

If it's us, we can do it.
It's alright.
I appoint you as my accompanist.
But you're fine!
It's no good, if you won't play.
I'll play with all I have,
so that the people in the audience won't forget me.


I'm a performing musician.
Again.

THOUGH IT'S ONLY A LITTLE BIT,
THE STAR IS ILLUMI- NATING MY PATH.
UNTIL NOW IT MIGHT VE JUST BEEN
A JOURNEY IN THE DARK.
BUT SHE KEPT BELIEVING IN ME TO ADVANCE.

from part D...
Now,
Let's set out on a journey.
There's no time, though I appreciate
Because they stopped, their points for time will be zero.
Are they planning to redo the performance?

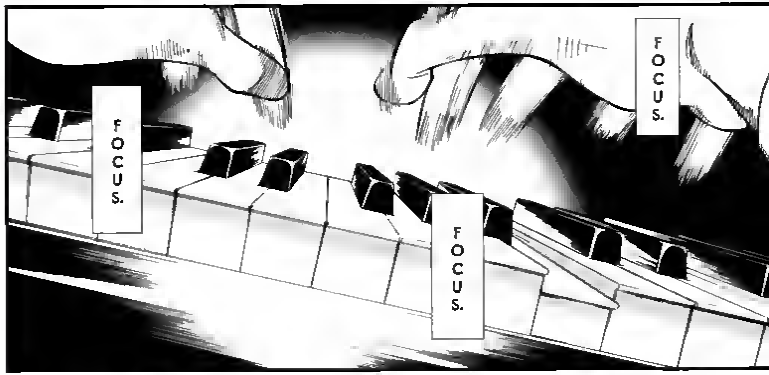
IN YOUR EYES
WAS RE-SOLVE.
If it's us, we can do it.
For that girl,
this contest is over.
THEN
REFLECTED IN THOSE EYES?
WHAT ABOUT ME
I'M SEARCH-ING FOR EXCUSES.
YET AGAIN.
FOR YOU.
FOR YOU.
Then why is that girl...
Look at me.
Raise your head.
Aren't I here?
KOUSEI...
DO YOU WANT TO LET HER PLAY ALONE!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KOUSEI!?
Still playing? For what purpose?

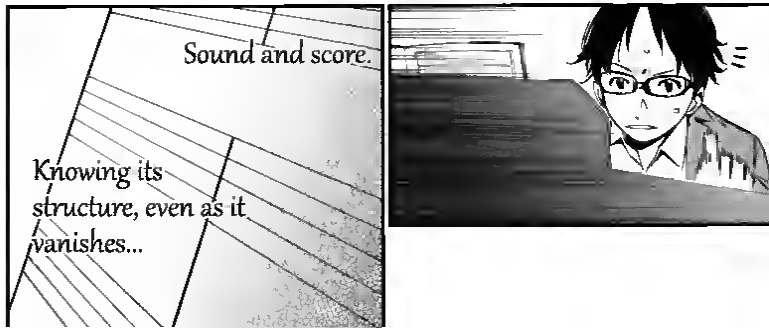
Look
at me.

I decided to be resolute.

KOUSEI
...
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
HE STARTED TO PLAY.
Arima—
The two sounds are still not in synch.

They're redoing it,
though what sucks still sucks
SFX: BANG
GO!
?
GO, KOUSEI!
?
OW
Go, Kousei!


FOCUS.
FOCUS.
FOCUS.


Sound and score.
Knowing its structure, even as it vanishes...

FOR ONE WEEK,
THE SCORE WAS ALWAYS PLACED IN FRONT OF ME.
I WAS...
ALWAYS LISTENING TO IT DURING LUNCH BREAK.

I'LL DRAG OUT
WHAT'S INSIDE ME.
FOCUS.
FOCUS.
It sounds hysterical
It hasn't changed at all.
Listen, Kousei.

Kousei.
Don't play so violently
The piano is you.
If you touch it gently, it will smile.
Like stroking baby's head.
If you strike it harshly, it will get angry.
Once more.
Twinkle
Twinkle
Light

I'll draw out what mother left me.
The sound is inside me.
TAN
TAN
IF I CAN'T HEAR THE SOUND,
I'LL IMAGINE IT!!

HEY, HEY.
FRIEND A.
For real...?

Don't take the leading role from me.

KYAA!
KOUSEI, KAORI-CHAN!
AMA-ZING!
SHH!
Beautiful.
Their first fight...
has completely enraptured the assembly hall.
Un-believ-able,
both of them are absurd.
As if it was a first fight.

Like her...
He's a performing musician.
HE'S NOT USED TO IT
SO IT'S NATURAL.
HE'S...
NOT AN ACCOMPANIST.

YOU ARE HERE.
I CAN HEAR YOUR SOUND.
TRUSTING ME TO MOVE.
Wait a bit.
It's time, shall we stop them?
STRONGLY
LIKE A PULSATION.

Very soon.
April will come to an end.

DRY AIR-CONDITION-ING.
THE SCENT OF PRIDE.
SFX: WAAAAAAH

WE SET OUT ON A JOURNEY.

Miyazono Kaori
Here it is
This way.
Err...
I'm getting nervous.
SFX. OPEN
Yahoo—
Nice Cake

OHH.
KYAAA
OH.
NAPE.
Noise
Noise
SUCH WHITE SKIN!!
AT LEAST KNOCK!!
Hide
TSUBAKI
Huh?!
SFX SWOOSH

Ugh.
Chapter 7 -
Cloudy Weather Pattern
I can't become a bride anymore.
METROPOLITAN SHINGEN UNIVERSITY-AFFILIATED HOSPITAL
METROPOLITAN SHINGEN UNIVERSITY
SFX: Ooh
FORGET WHAT YOU SAW!!!
SFX: KICK
slam
Ah. That surprised me.
SFX: GUSHINGLY

Squeeze
It's alright.
BLUSHING
Oh, my...
I'll take you as my bride.
The worst—
Dad is exaggerating.
So just to make sure, I'm getting an examination.
But I was surprised...
that you got hospitalized.

Examination...
That means you've fainted before?
I'm anemic to begin with,
My first time.
so it was a good opportunity to get a thorough examination.
Looks like I overdid it a little.
Practicing violin and...
CHASING AFTER SOMEONE WHO WAS RUNNING AWAY
FOR A WEEK, NONETHELESS.
WORRYING THAT HE WON'T ACCOMPANY ME FOR THE PERFORMANCE.
OWW
OUCH
That's right, that's right.
It's your fault.

That's right.
WE WEREN'T SELECTED FOR THE FINAL SELECTION.
IT WAS UNHEARD OF.
WE DIDN'T EXPECT THAT TO HAPPEN
We didn't get judged.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR US TO BE DISQUALIFIED.
AN INTERRUPTED PERFORMANCE.
Everything was my fault.
IT'S THE WORST CASE.

I'LL STAY
Then Kao-chan,
see you again at school.
Bye, bye.
It's about time for us to leave
It's bad if we stay for too long
Eh—!! I'll stay.
Say,
AND YET... YOU HAVE SHOWN NO RESENTMENT TOWARDS ME.
are you playing the piano?

GETTING CRITICIZED IS A LOT MORE COMFORTING, YET...

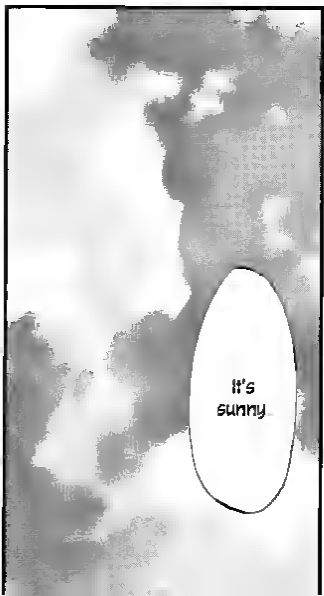
Nope.
I'm not playing.
Why?
Seems like...
piano isn't for me...
So you're not playing?

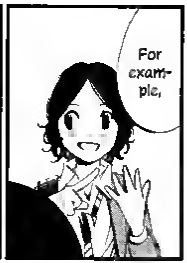
Have you forgotten?

It's cloudy.
Will it rain?
When we were leaving,
what did you talk about with Kao-chan?
Eh?
Keiko? I'm at Ryoichi
Nothing important
THEN,
CAN'T YOU JUST TELL ME?
...

That's not true.
Kousei has lots of good points.

Is piano the only thing I'm good at?


It's sunny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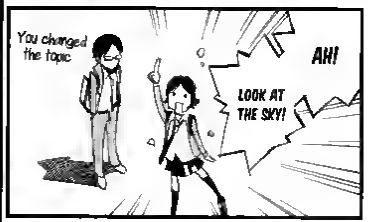

You changed the topic
AH!
LOOK AT THE SKY!

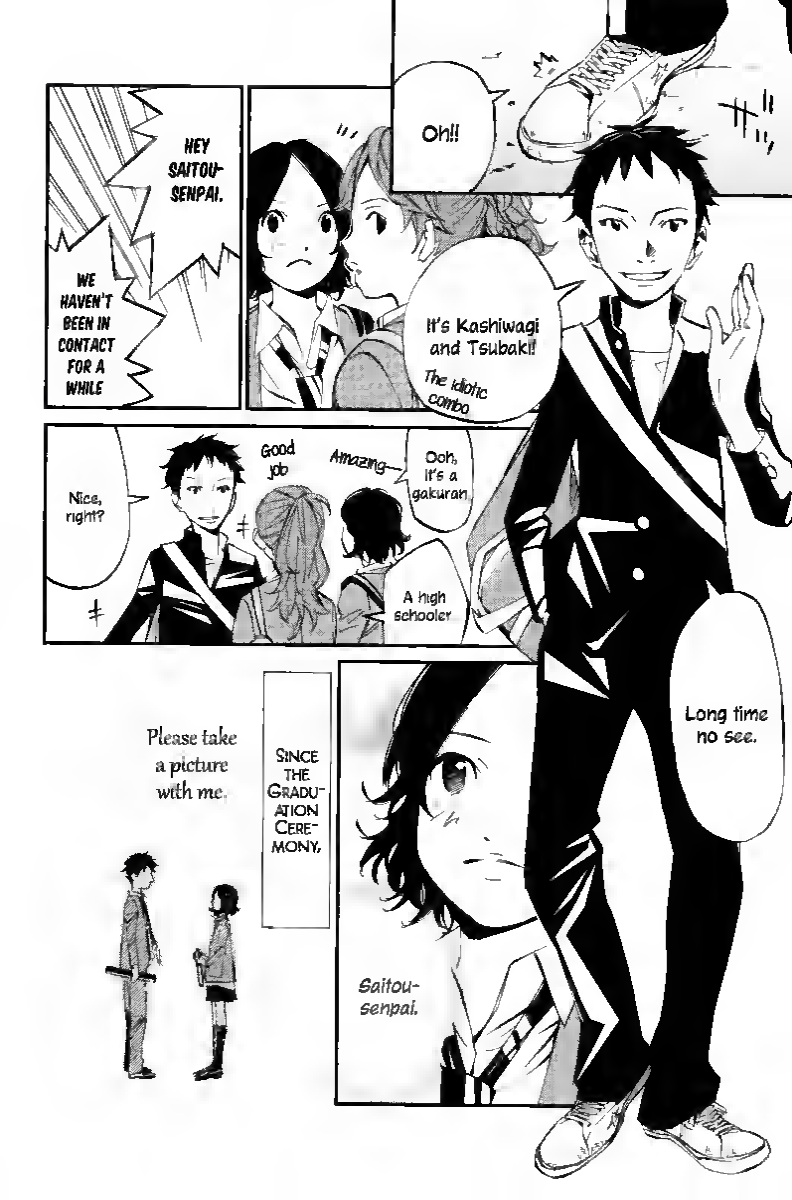
TAP
BAM

FIRST.
Slip
!?
Eit
Wah.
Fuwa
Wah.
Eit
Wah.
Wah.
Eit
Kuh-
LUCKY--
SAFE.
Boo
Boo
Boo
What are you doing, Tsukiko?
.....

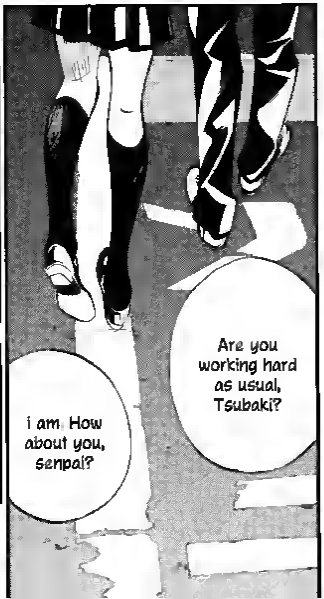
TORYA-AAH!
RUN
TSUCHI-KADO BRIDGE
HE HIT HIS STOMACH
OOHH.
Even though the water is still cold during May.
Kids are so ener-getic.

GO!
KOUSEI!
KYAA—
You're always pushing Arima-kun.
You were like that too.
You used to jump a lot in this "Courage Bridge".
Don't imitate this.
I know it.
That's right.
It's not fine.
ISN'T IT FINE?
EVEN KOUSEI LAUGHED.

Did something happen with Arima-kun?
N-N-NOTHING.
Bull's-eye
DON'T SAY STRANGE THINGS, KASHIWAGI!
Yelling so loudly—
If it's nothing, then fine.
Not really
Though your only redeeming feature is that you're energetic
Yesterday and today,
You're a bit off, not like your usual self
Your eyes are clouded


Oh!!
HEY SAITOU-SENPAI.
WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN CONTACT FOR A WHILE
It's Kashiwagi and Tsubaki!
The idiotic combo
Good job
Amazing—
Ooh, it's a gakuran
Nice, right?
A high schooler
Long time no see.
Saitou-senpai.
SINCE THE GRADUATION CEREMONY,
Please take a picture with me.

Being a 1st year again is hard
It's all odd jobs.
And I'm the shortest


Are you working hard as usual, Tsubaki?
I am. How about you, senpai?

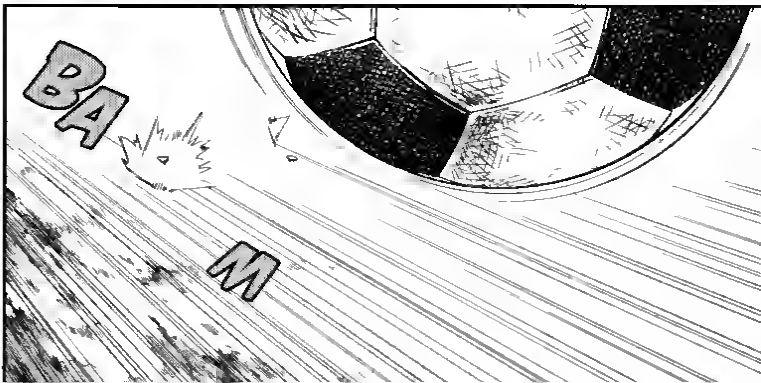
THE BASEBALL CLUB'S PREVIOUS CAPTAIN.
HE WAS COOL,
DEPEND-ABLE
AND ADMIRED BY GIRLS.
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM SOMEONE.
Why does she look angry?
LAME.
UN-DEPEND-ABLE.
A PERSON THAT NO ONE ADMIRES.

It's ALRIGHT.
It's ALRIGHT.
I...
KNOW MANY OF KOUSEI'S GOOD POINTS.
ASIDE FROM PLAYING THE PIANO.

Seems like it'll rain.
If it's nothing, then fine.
Such dull weather.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
WHY...
YET
...do I feel anxious?
Even the inside of my chest
seems to be filled with grey clouds.
Your eyes are clouded.

Say, Tsubaki.
Yes?
?
It's not...
a coin-cidence...

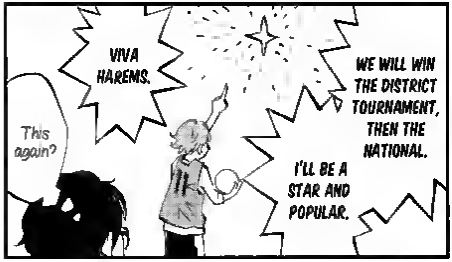
Will you go out with me?

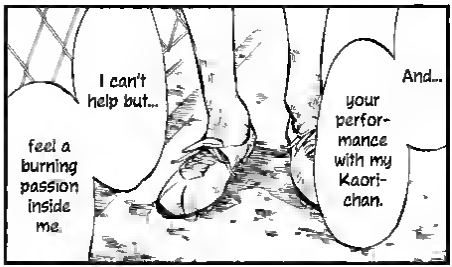

BA
M

SFX: KICK
!
SCORE!!!

DON'T READ A BOOK!
YOU SURPRISED ME.
LOOK AT MY DECIDING SHOT!!

!?
HEY!!


VIVA HAREMS.
This again?
WE WILL WIN THE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT, THEN THE NATIONAL.
I'LL BE A STAR AND POPULAR.


I can't help but...
feel a burning passion inside me.
And...
your performance with my Kaori-chan.

Your fighting spirit is getting wasted, Watari.
YEAH!!
THE LAST TOURNAMENT IS STARTING.

I won't forget it.
At that time your eyes were burning up.
GYA
Coach
The Captain shouldn't skip out
I won't forget it
Have you forgotten?

Have you forgotten?
Drip
Drip
Drip
THE PIANO IS PART OF YOU.
BUT AT THAT MOMENT
SURELY...

THE PIANO WAS...
YOUR EVERY-THING.
AND FORCIBLY INFLUEN-CING ME,
PLUCK-ING MY LIMBS OUT.
That's why it hurts.
It hurts that it can't even be helped.
PAIN-FUL.
IT'S PAIN-FUL.
LOOKING LIKE IT CAN'T BE HELPED
CLANG

#1
Have You forgotten?
Nope.
Absolutely impossible.

SFX: WAAAAH
WE...
WERE LIVING ...
FOR THAT MOMENT.

BRAVO!
WAY TO GO MIDDLE SCHOOL COMBO.
THE BEST!
YOU AND I ARE THE SAME.
A PERFORMING MUSICIAN.
ENCORE!
The dignity of the contest!

PANT
PANT
CLUMSY!?
Hau-
Come here.
Ah, yeah.
Hey, the salutations
I didn't expect this to happen.
This is unheard of,
I can't face them.
but—
NICE ONE, PIANIST.

The people in here...
won't forget us.
Surely,
I...
won't forget too.

SFX: AAAH
I WON'T FORGET IT EVEN IF I DIE.
Thank you.

Thank you,
because you accompanied me...
and because you played the piano.
Thank you.
Arima Kousei-kun.

She's a merciless person.
Those straight forward eyes.

THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPORTED...
WAS ME.
The appearance from her back...
shows that she won't allow herself to give up.
Please support me.

THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
SFX: BAM

I...
I see.
collapsed again

SFX: SPLASH SPLASH

YOU TWO GO ON AHEAD.
I'LL PASS
NEXT!
GO ON, KOUSEI!
MOM WILL SCOLD ME...
BUT I HAVE LESSONS...
SFX: FIDGET
SFX: IRRITATED
SO ANNOYING!
EEK!
ACK!
EEP!
SFX: GRAB 3X
WOMEN HAVE CHARM MEN HAVE COURAGE!
IF YOU'RE A MAN, DIVE IN!
THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE!
Wah

Splash
GYA-
PIGGYBACK-STYLE BACK DROP!
TSU-BAKI?!
KOUSE!!!!
Gurgle
Gurgle
opens eyes
MAKE HIM COUGH UP THE WATER!!
GET HIM TO THE SHORE!!
HE COULDN'T SWIM!
HE'S LIKE A FOUNTAIN!
Sits up
OH, KOUSE!!
HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS!

Aha-haha!
Splash
WHOA!
AGAIN!
AGAIN!
HE'S ADDICTED!
AFTER THAT,
TSUBAKI AND I...
GOT SCOLDED ENOUGH TO MAKE US WET OUR PANTS
Good kids should not imitate this.

CAN YOU...
FORGET?

SO COOL!
WATARI-KUN!!
(watari)
WA-TARI!
WA-TARI!
WA-TARI!
THAT WAS A DIRECT HIT.
ARE YOU OKAY, ARIMA?!
HE'S TWITCH-ING.
It's 'cause he wasn't paying attention.
SFX: THWIX
SFX: POW
GYA!
NICE PASS!
SFX: FWIP

Nice face receive!
SFX. POW
Hah!

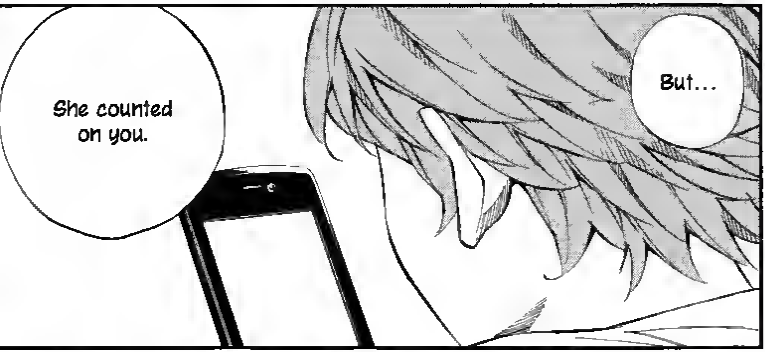
Tsubaki sure is energetic.
BOOM
BOOM
NET!
Pose
SPINNING RECEIVE!
WHIRL
WHIRL

Hey, Kousei.
Wanna come to the hospital?
KLINK

You got your cell-phone with you even during P.E.?
Let's go buy something to celebrate her release.
It's Kaori-chan's last day of testing at the hospital.

I see...
Chime
Hee-hee-hee
I thought I'd send your pic to Kaori-chan...
YOU BAS-TARD!!!
He already knows her email.
I'm sure she'll be happy.
...
I'll pass.
You should just go alone.
I guess I really feel awkward about it.
THE ONE WHO MADE HER CONTEST A DISASTER...
WAS ME.
And besides—

SEEING THOSE TWO TOGETHER.
It's a bit tough.


But...
She counted on you.

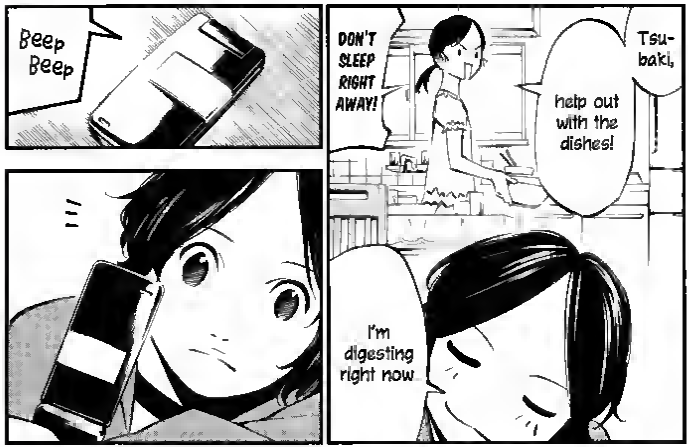
When my Kaori-chan was in a fix...
The one she asked for help
wasn't me.

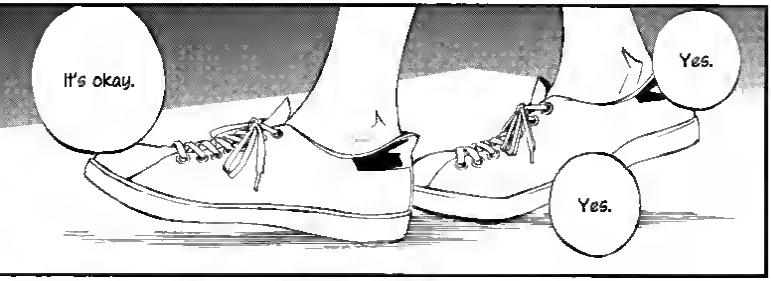
I know that, but...
Like hell can I stand just knowing!
It was you,
Kousei.
But that's because ...
THAT'S WHY.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WHY.
Then the problem happens after that.
I'm the only one who can play the piano.
I know that...
I do, but...
Don't hold back just cause I'm going.
Let's go together!
Grin...
Fuu!
You might get to see her naked again!
SFX: BLUSH—

SFX: WHACK WHACK
Oraa!
Tsubaki!!
They're fighting again.
Those three sure get along well.
ORAA!
SFX: THOK
KYA.
YOU'RE BOTH AT FAULT!
I WASN'T! IT WAS WATARI!
WE'RE IN CLASS!!
IT'S NOT FAIR— YOUR IMAGINATION IS EVEN MORE PERVERTED...
SFX: MENACING MOOD
YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT DIRTY THINGS BACK THERE, RIGHT?
It's a woman's intuition.
THE HELL WAS THAT FOR, TSUBAKI!!
IT HURTS!
Urk!
Even when they grow up...
They fight the same way as they did when they were kids.
SFX: FRICKLE—

SAWABE
Thanks for the food—
SFX: CLINK CLINK

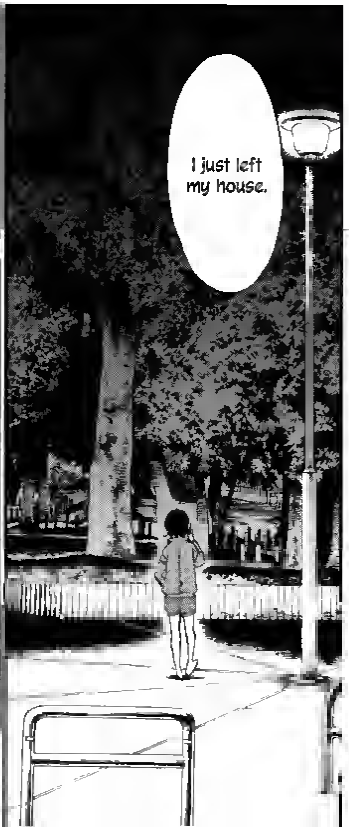
Phew-
I ate a lot-
SFX: GOPAN


Beep Beep
DON'T SLEEP RIGHT AWAY!
Tsubaki, help out with the dishes!
I'm digesting right now


It's okay.
Yes.
Yes.

What are you doing right now, senpai?

Ehh— this late?!
I'm on my way home from the club.
It was really tough.

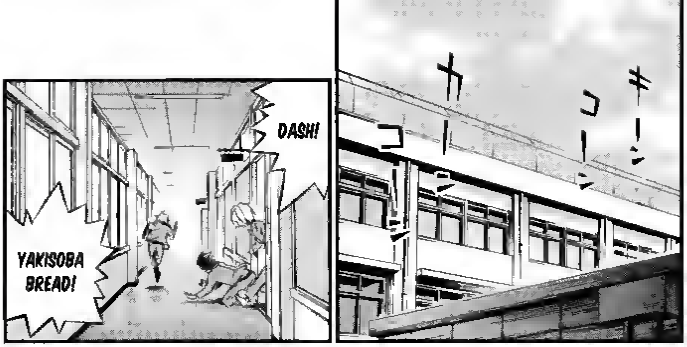

I just left my house.

The districts are going to be held soon.
Yours are coming up soon too, right?
SAITO-SENPAI...
IS REALLY KIND.
AND IT'S KINDA CUTE
WHEN HE'S ACTING LIKE A TOUGH GUY.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT ALL OF THE GIRLS ADORE HIM.

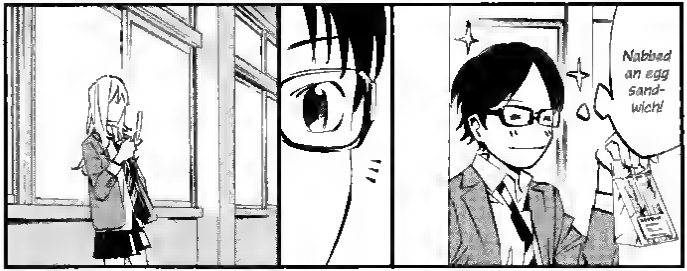
Got it.
Shift your weight so you can move to the next position right away.
HE TAUGHT ME A BIT...
ABOUT BEING SHORT-STOP.
IT'S NO SURPRISE HE'S ADMIRED A LOT.
I USED TO BE LIKE THAT.
THAT LOVE...
WITH-OUT SAYING A WORD,
IN THE END...
I THOUGHT IT WAS THAT KIND OF LOVE, BUT...
TOGETHER WITH THE SNOW DURING THAT GRADUA-TION CERE-MONY
MELTED AWAY...

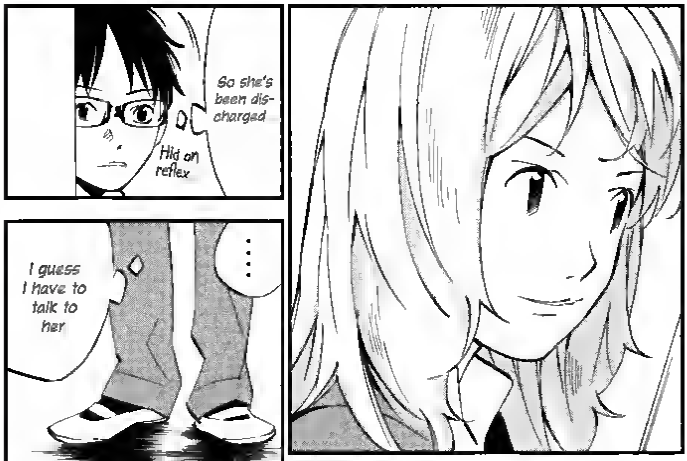
SFX. BA-DUMP
Won't you..
Go out with me?
Hey, Tsubaki.
About that.. reply..
It was so sudden, after all.
But, I'm..
Take your time to think about it.
Yes.
I'M HAPPY.
I'M SO HAPPY
Serious.

But I wonder why...
MY HEART...
WON'T SPARKLE.
I'M PRETTY SURE IF IT WAS DURING THAT GRADUATION.
JUST LIKE THE WINTER CONSTELLATIONS
IT WOULD'VE SPARKLED...

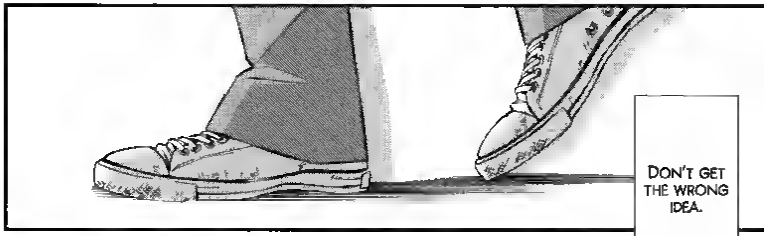


SFX. DING DONG DING DONG

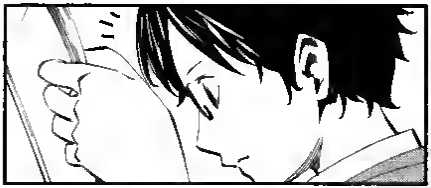


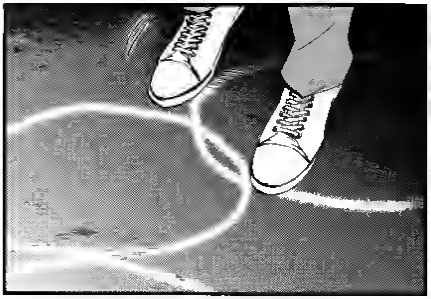


Here goes..
Likes Watari
Kao-chan...

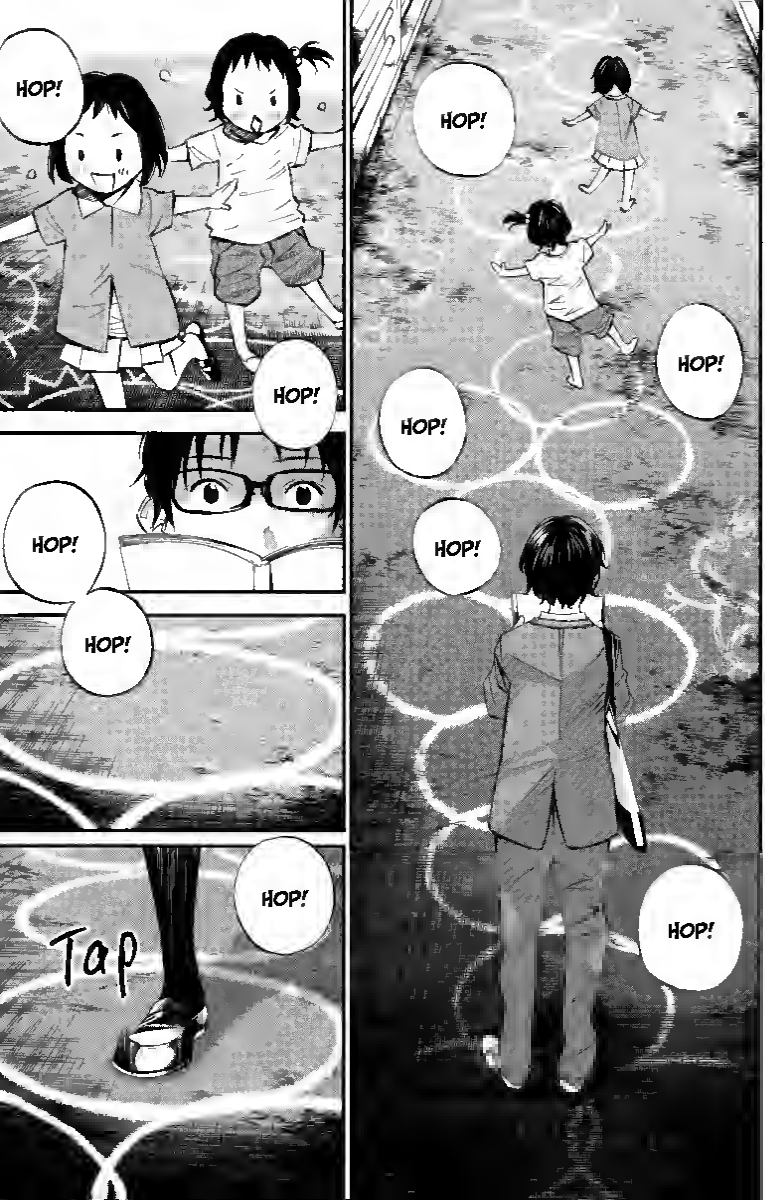

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

SHE JUST NEEDED AN ACCOM-PANIST.

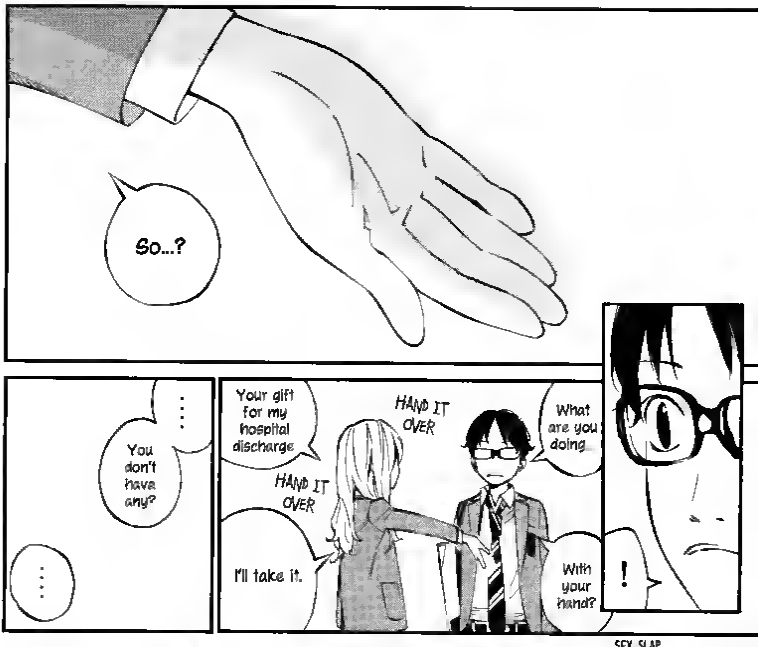




IT'S NOT LIKE SHE NEEDED ME.


HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
Tap

Yo!
AS IF SHE READ MY MIND...
SHE SUDDENLY APPEARS BEFORE ME...
Hop-scotch!
As you can see.
Tsk
Shh!
Shh!
She said she was waiting for someone!
Um.. What are you doing?
HOP!


So...?
Your gift for my hospital discharge
HAND IT OVER
What are you doing
HAND IT OVER
I'll take it.
With your hand?
!
You don't have any?
SFX: SLAP
!?
KYA-
I WAS AIMING TO WIN!
HOW MEAN!!
STOP LYING!
YOU'RE MEAN, ONIICHAN!
WATARI-KUN GAVE ME FLOWERS!! EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR RUINING MY COMPETITION!!

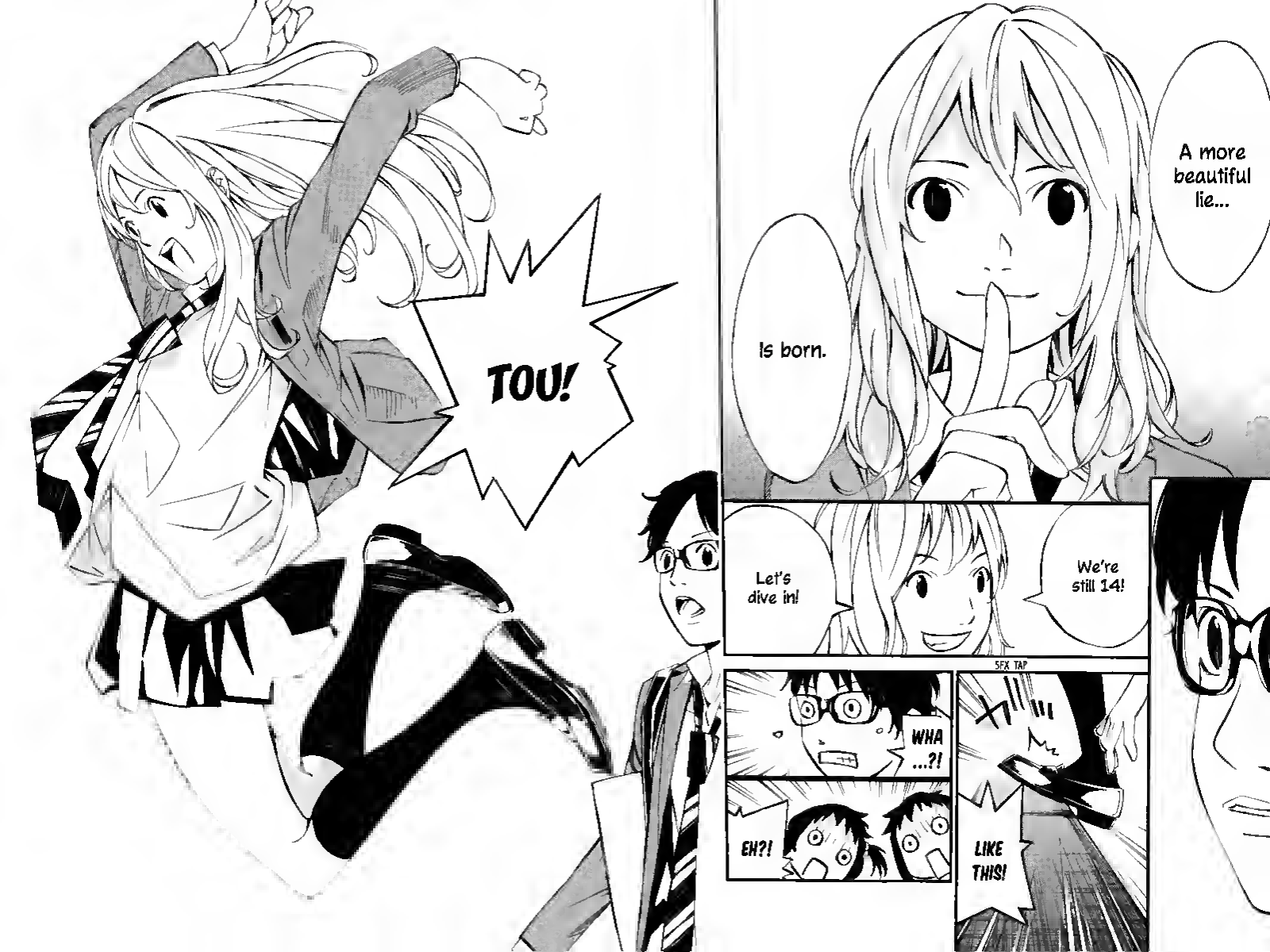
I GOT IT ALREADY!
I'LL DO SOMETHING, SO STOP CRYING!!
This is why guys are so annoying...
Don't make girl cry!
GLOOMY
I will, I will.
Will you do anything I say?
GLOOMY
I promise.
You promise?
Fwomp
Crocodile tears?
GLOOMY
All right!
jump
What should I ask for—
Oh, yeah!

JOIN A PIANO COMPE-TITION.
It's your turn.

It's impossible...
For me.
Why? You were able to play.
Are you still afraid?
...
You're still looking at the ground.
Everyone's afraid...
Of going onstage.

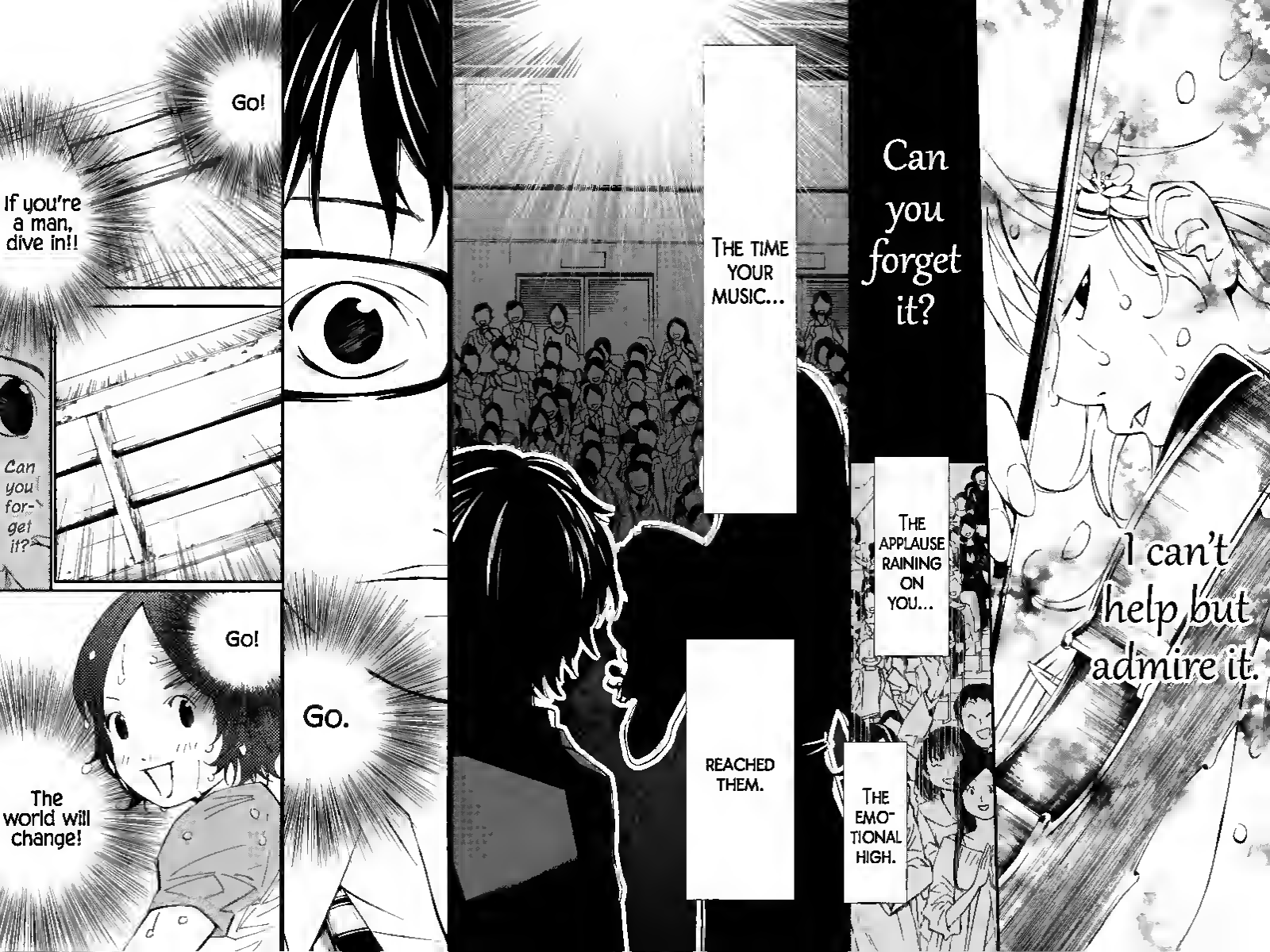
We perform...
Because we are inspired by something.
You might screw up.
Or get rejected
And yet we gut our teeth and go onstage
Is it the same for you?
EVERY-THING...
YOU SAY AND DO...
SPARKLES AND SHINES.

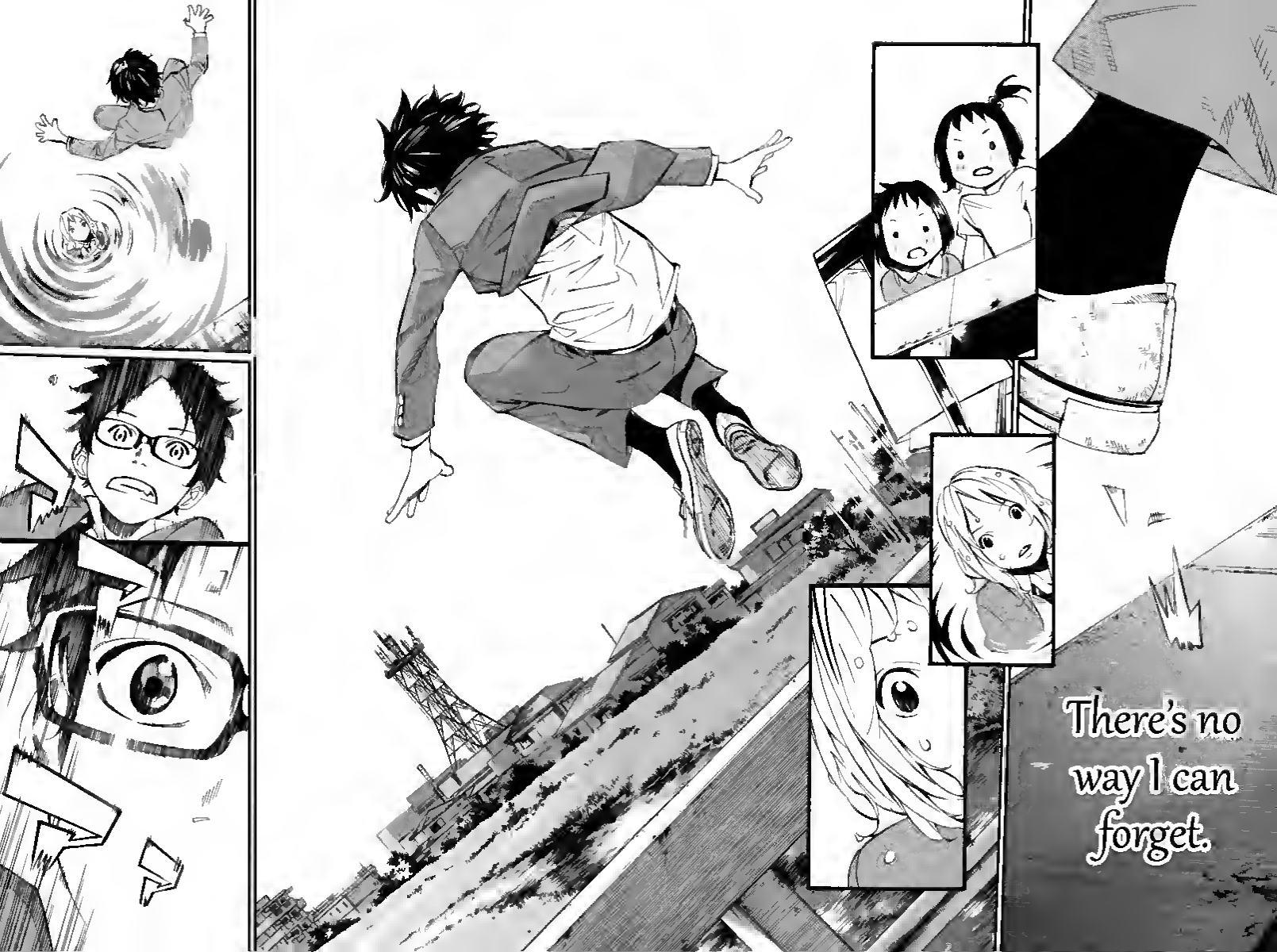
To think I played with all my might--
because I wanted my mother to get well.
As if I'd play again!!
I've thrown away the precious sheet music.
I fail as a musician.
IT'S TOO BRIGHT FOR ME...
SO BRIGHT... THAT I END UP CLOSING MY EYES.
And yet they pick up the sheet music again.
And face it.
And that's how...
I'm sure there are plenty of other musicians like that
Saying things like "Like hell I could do this!"
"You play it, then!!"


TOU!
A more beautiful lie...
Is born.
Let's dive in!
We're still 14!
SFX TAP
WHA ...?!
EH?!
LIKE THIS!

To think she's just recovered
JEEZ! WHY DO YOU ALWAYS DO RASH THINGS?!
Gya—
ONEECHAN!
SFX: SPLASH
Pff—
SHE'S ALIVE!
Ah— That was scary.
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
SFX: SPLASH

I WANTED TO TRY IT!
IT FEELS GREAT!
EVERYTHING YOU SAY AND DO. .
SPARKLES AND SHINES. .
IT'S TOO BRIGHT FOR ME... SO BRIGHT... I END UP CLOSING MY EYES.
AHA HA HA!
—AND YET,


I can't help but admire it.
Can you forget it?
THE TIME YOUR MUSIC...
REACHED THEM.
THE APPLAUSE RAINING ON YOU...
THE EMOTIONAL HIGH.
Go.
Go!
If you're a man, dive in!!
Can you forget it?
Go!
The world will change!


There's no way I can forget.

SFX: SPLASH
Kya-
NO WAY?!
gurgle
gurgle
HE WON'T COME UP!
THERE HE IS!!
Buha!
ONII-CHAN!
Good kids should not imitate this.
SFX: SPLASH
SFX: WAAA

AHA-HAHA!
THAT WAS SCARY!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FORGET.
BECAUSE ...
I'M JUST LIKE YOU.
Ahaha!
!?

I'M A MUSICIAN.
Huh? Where are your glasses?
AH—!!
To be continued in v3